Phytosanitary Certificate that the imported seeds (by name) are free from Terminator Gene.

(iv) Before release of imported seeds, Import Permit Issuing Authorities should satisfy themselves that such seeds do not contain Terminator Gene.

**Production of Onions**

472. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the production of onion in last three years with year-wise break-up; and

(b) the quantity of onion and onion products exported and imported during the last three years with year-wise break-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The annual production of onion during last three years at All India level is given as under:—

| | (lakh tonnes) |
|---|---|
| 1995-96 | 40.80 |
| 1996-97 | 44.28 |
| 1997-98* | 36.80 |

*Advance estimates

(b) The quantity of onion exported in the last three years is as follows:—

| | (lakh tonnes) |
|---|---|
| 1995-96 | 4.35 |
| 1996-97 | 5.13 |
| 1997-98 | 4.48 |

As regards imports this item was under negative list. In October, 1998 import of onion was put under OGL. The NAFED has imported 687 tonnes in October and November, 1998 on behalf of Government of India.

**Growth Rate of Food Grains**

473. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the average food grains growth rate for the 1990's was 1.7% against 3.5% for the 1980's; and

(b) what steps are being taken/ proposed to be taken by Government to establish a substantial growth rate of food grains in the coming years, to meet the growing demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) the annual compound growth rate of foodgrains production in the decade of 1990s was 1.8 per cent as against 3.5 per cent in the decade of 1980s.

(b) In order to increase the production and productivity of various foodgrains in the country, the Government is implementing crop specific development programmes and schemes in which incentives are provided to farmers for use of quality seeds and location specific hybrid varieties, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation, improved farm implements. Besides, field demonstration on farmers holdings including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology. Government is also providing price and market support to the farmers by announcing the Minimum Support Prices for major foodgrains crops and making arrangements for the procurement through the nodal agencies. The subsidised supply of fertilisers encourages its consumption for maintaining growth of foodgrains production. Further in the National Agenda for gevernance, the

Government has given fresh thrust to double the food production in next ten years adopting regionally differentiated growth strategies, creation of farming infrastructure and more efficient use of resources.

**Adulteration of Pesticides**

474. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State:

(a) whether instances of adulteration of pesticides in a big way has come to the notice of Government;

(b) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has asked the Central Government to bring forward amendments to the Insecticides Act, 1968;

(c) if so, the response of Government in this regard; and

(d) the likely date by which the Bill to bring forward the amendment to the Insecticides Act will be introduced in the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) In analysis of pesticides done by this State Pesticides Testing Laboratories (SPTLs) across the country, about 3 to 4% of pesticide samples were found to be misbranded. Whenever any substandard pesticides are found, necessary prosecutions are launched by the States/UTs against the manufacturers/Suppliers.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Amendments to certain provisions of Insecticides Act, 1968 are under consideration.

**Productivity of Crops**

475. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State:

(a) whether there is a wide variation in the productivity of the crops across different regions in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase productivity and cropping density?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The variation in the productivity of major crops/crop groups viz. rice, wheat, pulses, total foodgrains, oilseeds, sugarcane and cotton is given in the statement (*See* below).

(c) In order to increase the production and productivity of various crops in the country, the Government is implementing crop specific and area specific development programmes and schemes in which incentives are provided to farmers for use of quality seeds and location specific hybrid varieties, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation, improved farm implements. Besides, field demonstration on farmers holdings including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology. Further in the National Agenda for governance, the Government has given fresh thrust to double the food production in the next ten years adopting regionally differentiated growth strategies, creation of farming infrastructure and more efficient use of resources.